IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for annotating instant text messages in an instant messaging system for communication within an interconnected network of computers comprising:

establishing by at least some of the network of computers a connection to [[a]] said instant messaging system ~~service adapted to provide users with a recording comprising a one or more messages for viewing~~;

providing to a plurality of users by said instant messaging system a graphical user interface comprising a recording field;

displaying in said recording field for viewing by said users a chat record comprising one or more instant text messages from a currently ongoing instant text messaging session;

directly inputting handwritten stroke information message objects ~~into a message~~ anywhere within ~~the~~ said recording field to thereby annotate said one or more instant text messages in said chat record;~~, said messaging service~~

distributing by said instant messaging system said annotated one or more instant text messages for viewing by said plurality of users in said recording field ~~to other users~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said message objects are IM objects;~~ and said message is an IM record~~.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising copying a plurality of messages from other applications.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said messaging ~~service~~ system is of a peer-to-peer type.

5.   (Original)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising forwarding said handwritten stroke information to at least one participant.

6.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said messaging ~~service~~ system updates [[a]] chat record of all said current messages for distribution to, and handwritten stroke information annotation by, users of said messaging system ~~service~~, said method further comprising appending said handwritten stroke information onto ~~an existing~~ said chat record.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said establishing said connection is initiated by a first of a plurality of said users of said messaging system ~~service~~.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 7, wherein ~~further comprising:~~
    ~~providing a~~ said graphical user interface ~~for said user~~ comprises ~~and said graphical user interface including~~ a handwritten stroke input field.

9.   (Original)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said graphical user interface comprises an awareness field.

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10.   (Original)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said graphical

user interface comprises a text input field.

11.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 10, further

comprising entering text into said text input field wherein said text is associated with said message

objects for transmission to said messaging system service.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 8 further

comprising entering handwritten stroke information into said handwritten stroke input field

wherein said handwritten stroke information is associated with said message objects for

transmission to said messaging system service.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 8, further

comprising logging and displaying a complete history of said messages in said a-recording field of

said graphical user interface.

14.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 13, wherein

any one of said messages contains at least one URL for providing location information of an

associated said message objects in said recording field.

15.   (Currently Amended)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 14, wherein

each of said plurality of users may navigate through said recording field to said associated said

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message objects by selecting said at least one URL whereby said associated said message objects are displayed to said plurality of users.

16. (Currently Amended) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

annotating of said instant text messages in said recording field by any of said plurality of users; and using said hyperlink for alerting said plurality of users of said annotation.

17. (Currently Amended) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said annotating comprises:

a) navigating to a desired said message object of in said recording field;

b) selecting the desired said message to be annotated; and

c) adding new handwritten stroke information message objects to said recording field.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising searching said recording field based on user selected criteria.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for annotating instant text messages in an instant messaging system for communication within an interconnected network of computers, the computer readable program code in said computer program product comprising:

first computer readable program code for causing the computer to:

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a) establish a connection to [[a]] <u>said instant</u> messaging ~~service~~ <u>system</u> ~~adapted to provide users with a recording comprising one or more messages for viewing~~;

b) <u>provide to a plurality of users via said instant messaging system a graphical user interface comprising a recording field</u>;

<u>c) display in said recording field for viewing by said users a chat record comprising one or more instant text messages from a currently ongoing instant text messaging session</u>;

[[b]] <u>d</u>) <u>receive directly</u> input handwritten stroke information message objects ~~into a message~~ anywhere within ~~the~~ <u>said</u> recording <u>field</u> to thereby annotate said <u>one or more instant text</u> message<u>s in said chat record</u>;[[,]]

c) distribute <u>via said instant messaging system</u> said annotated <u>one or more text</u> message<u>s for viewing by said plurality of users</u> in said recording <u>field</u> ~~to other users~~.

20.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 19, wherein:

said message objects are IM objects~~; and,~~

~~said message is an IM record~~.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 19, further comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to copy a plurality of messages from other applications.

22.   (Original)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 19,

further comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to forward said

handwritten stroke information to at least one participant.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in

Claim 19, further comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to append

said handwritten stroke information onto ~~an existing~~ said chat record.

24.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in

Claim 19, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to allow said

establishing said connection to be initiated by a first of a plurality of users of said messaging

system ~~service~~.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in

Claim 24, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to:

    a) ~~provide said user a graphical user interface;~~

    ~~b)~~ include a handwritten stroke input field in said graphical user interface.

26.   (Original)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 25,

comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to provide an awareness

field.

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27. (Original) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 25, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to provide a text input field.

28. (Original) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 27, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to make text entered into said text input field a part of said message objects.

29. (Original) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 25, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to make handwritten stroke information entered into said handwritten stroke input field a part of said message objects.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 25, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to ~~provide a~~ enable said recording field in said graphical user interface to ~~for~~ logging and display~~ing~~ a complete history of said messages.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 30, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to place in any one of said messages at least one URL for providing location information of an associated said message objects in said recording field.

32. (Original) The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 31, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to provide each of said

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plurality of users the capability to navigate through said recording field to said associated said message objects by clicking on said at least one URL whereby said associated said message objects are displayed to said each of said plurality of users.

33.   (Original)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 32, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to:

provide the capability of annotation of said messages in said recording field by any of said plurality of users; and

alert said plurality of users of said annotation by said hyperlink.

34.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 33, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to provide the following capabilities in said annotation:

a) navigation to a desired said message object ef in said recording field;

b) selection of the desired said message to be annotated; and,

c) addition of new handwritten stroke information message objects to in said recording field.

35.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product for messaging as claimed in Claim 30, comprising computer readable program code for causing the computer to provide searching of said recording field based on user selected criteria.

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36.   (Currently Amended)   A system for annotating <u>instant text</u> messages <u>in an instant</u>

<u>messaging system</u> for communication within an interconnected network of computers comprising:

a) means for establishing a connection to [[a]] <u>said instant</u> messaging <u>system</u> ~~service~~

~~adapted to provide users with a recording comprising one or more messages for viewing~~;

<u>b) means for providing to a plurality of users a graphical user interface comprising a</u>

<u>recording field;</u>

<u>c) means for displaying in said recording field for viewing by said users a chat record</u>

<u>comprising one or more instant text messages from a currently ongoing instant text messaging</u>

<u>session;</u>

~~b)~~ <u>d)</u> means for <u>directly</u> inputting handwritten stroke information message objects ~~into a~~

~~message~~ anywhere within ~~the~~ <u>said</u> recording <u>field</u> to thereby annotate said <u>one ore more text</u>

<u>message</u>s <u>in said chat record;</u> and

~~e)~~ <u>e)</u> means for distributing said annotated <u>one or more instant text</u> message<u>s for viewing</u>

<u>by said plurality of users</u> in said recording <u>field</u> ~~to other users~~.

37.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 36, wherein:

said message objects are IM objects~~; and~~

~~said message is an IM record~~.

38.   (Previously Presented)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 36 further

comprising means for copying a plurality of messages from other applications.

39.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 36, wherein

said messaging ~~service~~ system updates a record of all said current messages for distribution to, and

handwritten stroke information annotation by, users of said messaging service, said system further

comprising means for forwarding said handwritten stroke information to at least one participant.

40.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 36, further

comprising means for appending said handwritten stroke information onto ~~an existing~~ said chat

~~recording~~.

41.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 36, further

comprising means for connecting, when initiated by a first of a plurality of users of said messaging

system ~~service~~.

42.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 41, further

comprising:

        ~~means for providing a graphical user interface to said user; and~~

        means for including a handwritten stroke input field in said graphical user interface.

43.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 42, comprising means for

providing an awareness field.

44.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 42, comprising means for

inputting text.

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45.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 44, comprising means for

making said text a part of said message objects.

46.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 42, comprising means for

making handwritten stroke information a part of said message objects.

47.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 42,

comprising means for ~~providing a recording field in said graphical-user-interface for login and~~

displaying a complete history of said messages.

48.   (Currently Amended)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 47,

comprising means for providing location information of an associated said message objects of any

one of said messages in said recording <u>field</u>.

49.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 48, comprising means for

providing for each of said plurality of users, quick navigation through said recording field to said

associated said message objects, whereby said associated said message objects are displayed to

said each of said plurality of users.

50.   (Original)   The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 49, comprising:

means for annotating of said messages in said recording field by any of said plurality of users;

means for alerting said plurality of users of said annotation.

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51. (Currently Amended) The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 50, comprising:

means for navigating ~~to~~ by a user to a desired said message object ~~of~~ in said recording field;

means for selecting the desired said message for annotation by said user; and

means for adding said new handwritten stroke information message objects to said recording field.

52. (Currently Amended) The system for messaging as claimed in Claim 47, comprising means for search of said recording field based on user selected search criteria.

53. (Currently Amended) A method for annotating instant text messages in an instant messaging system for communication within an interconnected network of computers comprising:

establishing by at least some of the network of computers a connection to [[a]] said instant messaging system ~~service adapted to provide users with a recording comprising a one or more messages for viewing~~;

providing to a plurality of users by said instant messaging system a graphical user interface comprising a recording field;

displaying in said recording field for viewing by said users a chat record comprising one or more instant text messages from a currently ongoing instant text messaging session;

directly inputting information message objects ~~into a message~~ anywhere within ~~the~~ said recording field to thereby annotate said one or more instant text messages in said chat record; ~~said~~ ~~messaging service~~

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distributing <u>by said instant messaging system</u> said annotated <u>one or more instant text</u> message<u>s for viewing by said plurality of users</u> in said recording <u>field</u> ~~to other users~~

54.   (Original)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 53, further comprising:

a. inputting said information message objects wherein said information comprises speech;

b. annotating said information message objects wherein said annotating comprises speech.

55.   (Original)   The method for messaging as claimed in Claim 53, further comprising:

a. inputting said information message objects wherein said information comprises gestures;

b. annotating said information message objects wherein said annotating comprises gestures.

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